

Election 2019

About this Voters Guide

This voters guide is a compilation of questions asked by the League of Women Voters to candidates for municipal office in New Canaan on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019. All replies are printed unedited, as they were received. Candidates who did not respond are so noted. The guide is published as a public service by the New Canaan Advertiser.

First Selectman *Vote for one*

Kevin J. Moynihan Republican

Biography

As a 38-year resident and the incumbent, I feel I am the more qualified candidate to be elected First Selectman. After a successful 35-year career as a corporate attorney, I became involved in volunteer work in town with the Community Foundation and other non-profits and as a member of the Town Council for four years. I have accomplished several important things, including getting our financial house in order, increasing commuter parking, bringing natural gas and solar power to New Canaan, fostering the creation of Waveny Park Conservancy and the New Canaan Athletic Foundation, and protecting open space.

Priorities

My top priorities for the next two years revolve around making New Canaan more competitive as a town so that executives and professionals from Manhattan and elsewhere will want to choose our town to move to and raise their families. First is solving the problem of poor to non-existent cell phone service in half of town; having followed this closely for seven years I know what needs to be done to get the carriers to build more cell towers and improve



Kevin Moynihan

service. Second is continuing to add to our inventory of commuter parking near the downtown train station with Boxcar and other strategies. Third is improving train times between New Canaan and Grand Central and the frequency of trains. Fourth is supporting our tax base (and thereby reducing our tax rate) by supporting the vibrancy of our Village District and adding capacity to broaden employment opportunities in Downtown office space.

Improvements

Before I took office in November, 2017 I asked the Superintendent of Schools if he would share a single Chief Financial Officer to try to achieve synergies and savings in the operations of the Town and the Schools. Because of personnel considerations, it was not possible to achieve this goal then. We now have an opportunity to try to make this transition since the Town's CFO will be retiring at year end. I believe we can and must seek to maximize collaboration and efficiencies between the Town and the Schools in order to moderate our spending and reduce taxes.

allow public input on the formulation of ideas, not just after the fact. Early input would allow for better outcomes, with more acceptance from our fellow citizens. Along those lines, I would like to welcome public input at the Board of Selectmen's meetings – not just on agenda items, as currently allowed, but on whatever our Town residents would like to

propose. We have intelligent involved residents. Let's take every opportunity to hear what they have to say.

Improvements

I was disappointed in the process that surrounded the proposed sale of the Vine Cottage. Although the building sale may end up being the best course of action, there was no dedicated public hearing on de-accessing what some think is an iconic building. I believe that 'good process' is an important part of government. Although getting things done may be satisfying, it is our responsibility to be inclusive, informative and transparent in our decisions. I believe we are public servants and not Town managers. Let's not shy away from letting residents express their opinions.

Craig Donovan Democratic

Biography

After 30 years training elected officials on good governance, I am bringing my passion for public service home as candidate for New Canaan's First Selectman. My qualifications include the insights gleaned from studying 30,000 local governments, plus a strong record of bipartisan collaboration. Working alongside leaders with integrity, pragmatism, and vision, I've learned that there is no partisanship in long term successful outcomes. My wife Liz Gores Donovan and I raised 6 children, 3 biological and 3 adopted, and our family's roots are deep here in town. New Canaan residents deserve inclusive, thoughtful, and transparent leadership.

Top Priorities

Unfortunately, New Canaan's top concerns are not new: reactive policies of prior administrations have made once-manageable concerns increasingly complex and intractable. Proactive leadership is key to timely and efficient problem-solving. Working as a community on setting our long-term vision for New Canaan will contextualize current issues, guiding us toward strategic solutions that can address our most pressing concerns in a sustainable manner. I'm ready to



Craig Donovan

deliver meaningful progress on many issues: collaborating with Stamford to improve branch line service; supporting working families with expanded access to day-care; exploring innovative senior housing solutions; implementing transparent budget procedures; committing to a 5-year fiscal stability plan; reinstating the Utilities Commission to leverage dedicated expertise in solving our ongoing issues with natural gas installation, sustainability projects, and cell service; launching a streamlined Public Safety Commission; establishing clear guidelines and procedures to guide stewardship of town assets; and more.

Improvements

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. I will reverse the CEO approach to leadership. This fundamentally inverts the central dynamic of a democratic society, where in fact the town is the "boss". I will restore the Public Utilities Commission, working with and supporting their expertise to keep town control of expanding cell coverage, natural gas contracts and installation, alternative energy etc. I will return the review of public safety issues to the town through a Public Safety Commission. I will implement 21st century civic engagement tools to connect us all.

Selectman *Vote for one*

Kit Devereaux Democratic

Biography

It has been my privilege to serve the Town of New Canaan in the following roles: 8 years on the Board of Finance, 8 years on the Town Council, two years on the Board of Selectmen. As well, I served on the Parks and Recreations Commission and the Charter Revision Commission. I also served on many of our non-profit boards, often in leadership positions. My professional background is in finance and I hold an MBA in Finance. I believe my background uniquely qualifies me to understand our challenges and our strengths, and to help build consensus as New Canaan moves into a complex future.

Priorities

We must keep a keen eye on our Capital budget as we continue to work toward resolving our cell service and parking problems. We must nurture our Town center and the excellence of our schools, and to foster the good work of New Canaan's public/private partnerships. We must work to preserve our small-town New England feel. I believe it's important to work in a spirit of inclusion and transparency--to



Kit Devereaux

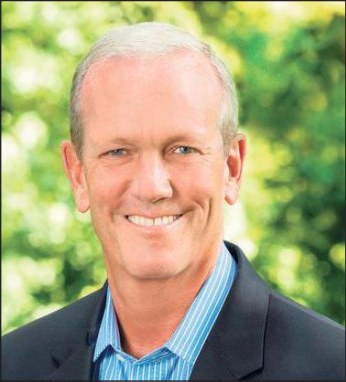
Nick Williams Republican

Biography

I've served as Selectman since 2011, and as a former member of the Board of Education, including as Vice Chairman (2009) and Chairman (2010-2011). I'm a lawyer who has commuted into the city for the past 27 years. I've served on the Board of Trustees of the Congregational Church, the Board of the NCHS Scholarship Foundation, a member of the Exchange Club, and coached youth soccer and flag football over a 12-year period. I'm married to Elizabeth "Whitney" Williams, who grew up in New Canaan. We have three children, Tori, Chase and Kent, who like their mom graduated from our outstanding public school system.

Priorities

The most important issue in this election is balance. We must continue to wholeheartedly support our schools, business community, parks, roads and other infrastructures in order to maintain New Canaan's deserved reputation as one of the finest communities in America. But we must do that exercising prudent judgment with respect to the fiscal needs and implications of those efforts. With experienced and smart leadership, those two goals are



Nick Williams

not incompatible. The fact that the town's 2019-2020 budget is down .56% from the prior fiscal year speaks to the effectiveness of current leadership. I'm pleased that our efforts to improve cell phone coverage, expand commuter parking, initiate public-private partnerships like the athletic fields project, enhance transparency in government, and support "green" initiatives such as the introduction of natural gas and solar power to New Canaan have all had success. There's still have more work to do - but I genuinely look forward to the challenge.

Improvements

Several years ago I considered putting metered parking on Elm Street as a way to "turn over" the most desirous parking spots in town. After researching this idea, including discussions with local business owners and residents (and listening to my wife and several friends tell me I was crazy), I determined that adding meters to Elm Street might actually have the unintended consequence of driving away consumers. Eventually this led to my latest proposal — going completely in the opposite direction and considering the benefits of eliminating metered parking entirely in our town.

Town Council *Vote for up to six*

Robin Bates-Mason

Democratic

Biography

I have lived in New Canaan for almost 20 years with my husband Carl and our two sons who attend New Canaan High School. I had a career in finance, on the convertible bonds desk and then in treasuries, before deciding to stay home to raise our sons. I am a board member of New Canaan Beautification League, League of Women Voters, President and Co-Founder of Planet New Canaan, Member of BYO New Canaan and on the Family Fourth Committee.



Robin Bates-Mason

Priorities

Our school system draws families to our town and if not ranked as one of the top in the state, we lose our biggest draw. It is important to continue to support our schools not only to keep up our home values but also to ensure our children have a strong educational foundation to prepare them for the future.

Sustainability is increasingly important to many people and we should be at the forefront of these efforts to help the environment and save money.

To keep our mill rate in check while maintaining the services our residents expect, we have to cut some dead weight. We have a large inventory of buildings that are not ADA compliant, empty or under utilized and in need of costly repair and maintenance. We need to either find a suitable purpose for them, possibly revenue generating if feasible, or think about divesting to save money.

Improvements

I thought that the town should have done tier parking at the Locust parking lot. We have lost 13 parking spaces on Elm Street and looks like we might lose another 12 on Main Street. The Parking Commission Chair has previously stated that the project “would practically be self funding” (Advertiser, May 14, 2015) and if correct, in light of parking losses from the sale of the Telephone building, DOT removing spaces and proposed new development on Cross and Vitt, we need more parking options. Our parking situation has changed greatly and we need to revisit this project.

Maria Naughton

Republican

Biography

My husband, Bob and I have lived in New Canaan since 2002, and our four children have all benefited from our school system. I have a Masters degree in teaching with certification in administration and K-8. After working at GE Capital, I spent 18 years in education. I am currently a Realtor with Halstead CT.

My Board of Education experience has allowed me to analyze issues, and share feedback on educational matters. My goal on Town Council is to bring a willingness to research and understand all aspects of town-wide issues, and to bring community input to the table.

Priorities

As a member of the Town Council, my top priority would be on maintaining the best features of our wonderful town in a way that ensures economic stability. The best way to do that is to ensure that any town spending is undertaken in a thoughtful, efficient way. By looking at best practices in the area, we might find ways to share services across departments in town. We should analyze all areas of spending to determine if there is a way to leverage our position for better pricing across departments. We should also continue to look for ways to manage our town-owned buildings, and explore opportunities to utilize them to the benefit of the town. I hope to bring to the Town Council the ability to research and understand issues and collaborate on data-driven solutions.

Improvements

As a parent, I became aware that schools were adopting technology which allowed third-party vendors to have access to student data with few protections in place for students, and a lack of awareness for families. I advocated for the passage of the Student Data Privacy law, which finally passed in 2016. However, I would have liked our district to take a more proactive role in understanding the issue and advocate for it. Some districts took this opportunity to audit technology use, and even eliminate unnecessary and outdated technology programs which resulted in future savings for the town.



Maria Naughton

Colm J. Dobbyn

Democratic

Biography

I am a 26 year resident of New Canaan. I raised my family in town; my two children are now in their 20's. I am a corporate attorney and lead the Intellectual Property legal team at Mastercard, which comprises a worldwide team of about 20 professionals. I have served as an appointed Commissioner on the New Canaan Inland Wetlands Commission since 2005. From my background as an attorney and manager, I bring leadership and analytic skills. I am firmly committed to listening to and representing the interests of all residents of New Canaan.

Priorities

I am committed to protecting the distinctive character and natural environment in New Canaan against over-development and degradation. I am equally committed to supporting the town's excellent public school system, which is critical to attracting new families and maintaining home values. I strongly believe that we should have an open, transparent town government that is responsive to the concerns of New Canaan's residents. If elected to the Town Council, I will work to represent all of the people of New Canaan by reaching out to residents in an inclusive, collaborative manner.

Improvements

New Canaan adopted revisions to its Charter in 2016. While many of the changes in the Charter improved the organization and operation of the town government, I believe that the Charter revisions were a lost opportunity to bring a greater degree of democracy to New Canaan. In particular, the Charter revisions retained an appointed, rather than an elected, Board of Finance. I believe that the Board of Finance plays a key role in the financial affairs of the town and its members should be elected officials, who are responsive to the citizens of New Canaan.



Colm Dobbyn

Stephen J. Karl

Republican

Biography

I am a lifelong resident and the fifth generation of my family to live in New Canaan. My civic involvement in our community spans four decades, each one more rewarding than the next. I have had the privilege of serving on our Town Council for three full terms and served as it's Vice Chairman for eight of those years. I have also chaired the Bylaws and Ordinance committee for ten years as well as serving on several sub committees including Education, Land Use and Recreation, Public Safety, General Government and Public Works. In recent years I chaired the NC Playhouse Committee, served as Treasurer for a local gubernatorial candidate, and been a part of the God's Acre Founder's Terrace group. In addition to serving on numerous nonprofit organizations, I am business owner. I have been married to my wife Tracey (NCHS '80) for 32 years and we have four boys who all attended and graduated from our outstanding public schools. I offer experience, creativity and stability to the Council and always strive to serve with an open mind to any issue facing our community.

Priorities

Getting roads in order post-Eversource. Assist the current administration with cell phone coverage, commuter parking, train service, green initiatives and infrastructure issues. Reducing bonded debt, consolidating services and continue to deliver the lowest budget possible without a degradation in services to our taxpayers. Support our BOE as they tackle school start times and budget constraints while remaining competitive. Limit our exposure of unnecessary town owned buildings, eliminate town rental properties, and support projects that enhance real estate values. Continue the work of the B&O Subcommittee which is studying downtown parking, demolition delay, and business signage.

Improvements

Our past 2-3 years have been busy indeed. The formation and work of the Ethics Board and Audit Committee by the Council have proven successful and their efforts are appreciated and essential to good governance. They need to continue. Top to bottom accurate reporting and accounting from every department is not only an achievable goal, it is the next and final step on our path to complete transparency to our taxpayers.



Stephen Karl

Mark Grzyski

Democratic

Biography

I received a B.S.B.A from Bucknell University and a MBA from Fordham's Graduate School of Business. I have 22 years of experience in finance, the past 12 as a partner at TimesSquare Capital Management, LLC responsible for all domestic investments in the industrial manufacturing sectors. I have a strong understanding of profit and loss management and communicate regularly with business leaders across our state and country. I appreciate the secular pressures facing Wall Street too. These experiences will guide me on decisions related to the safety and health of our community rooted in a strong education system.



Mark Grzyski

Priorities

My top priority is to represent New Canaan in the most transparent way. Like many younger families in town, I want the best for my children and will ensure our schools are given every opportunity to remain the best in the state. There are local issues testing our fortitude, but the future of this town is bright so long as we promote our strengths in a fiscally responsible manner. I am committed to the integrity of our downtown, improved parking for our businesses and residents, and keeping development desirable to our residents and small town image.

I believe in service, the future of this town, and more diverse representation in our town government. I am not driven by an agenda or local conflicts of interest. I will serve New Canaan like any citizen passionate about education, the integrity of the town, property values, and safety in our community.

Town Improvements

At a time when home values are under pressure, approving high density construction projects over the past few years will prove costly. I am leery of this type of work which pushes New Canaan away from its small town feel. Furthermore, I find in my professional life organizations tend to underestimate the negative impact and overestimate the positive. Incremental tax revenue will not offset increasing pressure on our education system, public safety and infrastructure. I moved to New Canaan for the New England charm and high density projects approved with numerous variances will not help property values or taxes.

Cristina Aguirre-Ross

Republican

Biography

I am a 28 year resident of New Canaan, a licensed architect with extensive experience in construction, planning, budgets and long term range planning. A published author, and an advocate for preserving the character of our town and supporting non-profit organizations that enhance the quality of life in New Canaan. I am the only candidate that brings extensive professional experience in infrastructure that can advocate to best practices, vision/alternatives options, efficiencies and project costs. The town's infrastructure will play a significant part in our bonding discussions and we need experience to manage/advise and move us in the right direction.

Priorities

My top priorities are to continue to advocate for efficiencies in areas where we can consolidate, find alternatives in order to realize cost savings to reduce our overall spending. In bonding, I will be advocating ways in which to better manage the long term plans of our infrastructure, with alternatives and best practices to create a long-term vision for the town that is fiscally manageable.

The budget process has many moving parts and the way in which capital expenditures are presented, deliberated and moved for approval from the BOF to Town Council are areas that need improvement. Discussion between the BOS, BOF, and TC prior to the budget process being set should be inclusive of everyone's expertise, from finance to construction. A budget that is inclusive of a diversified team of elected/appointed officials will deliver a budget that is stronger financially, and big picture in long term planning for NC.

Improvements

The way the budget process works starting with each department's presentation to the BOS and then moving to the BOF (appointed body) who then creates a recommended budget for the Town Council (elected body) to approve, reduce or reject a budget, not rendering the best outcomes. Decisions, options and direction need to be part of the conversation from the start and prior to the creation of the budget. The Town Council has a diversified level of professional experience that the BOF should look to for meaningful contribution prior to setting the budget. This will be a top priority for me.



Cristina Aguirre-Ross

Michael J. Mauro

Republican

Biography

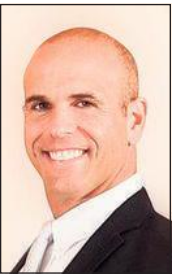
I am a member of Town Council. I sit on Town Council's Public Safety and Bylaws and Ordinance sub-committees. My wife and I both work; we moved into town three years ago and our children attend South School. Being a young family provides valuable insight on how to keep the town attractive to newcomers. I am an attorney that specializes in labor and employment law. I have deep experience in negotiating union contracts. My legal expertise is an especially valuable skill set considering nearly two-thirds of the town's budget is committed to labor costs of the municipal unionized workforce.

Priorities

Property values have decreased 16% and the mill rate has increased – why? Several factors are the size of the town budget, bonding debt load, regional competition for a shrinking pool of young families, and our seniors who have less options to stay put. This town needs a Marshal Plan to address these pressing issues. Among my contributions are: consulting with the town departments to help find ways to control labor costs; engaging with other young parents to find solutions to inhibiting factors like train times, daycare, cell service; and making it easier for seniors to stay like voting to support senior tax relief. We must be vigilant in opposing school regionalization and continuing to deliver the best educational experience in the most fiscally responsible manner. Further, we need to support the establishment of the Athletic Enterprise Zone – our athletic facilities are a key asset that must be enhanced and monetized.

Improvements

The inability to achieve deeper budget savings, a reduction in the reliance upon bonding and to develop a long-term vision for the changing demographics of the town and region needs to be corrected. While there has been a diligent effort to correct course much more is required. Fixed labor costs represent nearly 80% of the entire town budget – we must negotiate better union contracts. We must prioritize capital projects to reduce borrowing. We must integrate our best assets (e.g. education, parks, small town civil culture) into a 21st century model to entice families to move here and residents to stay.



Michael Mauro

Board Of Education *Vote for up to four*

► Priorities: (100 words max) What do you see as the major issue(s) facing the New Canaan school district in the next 4 years and will any of them significantly impact the local taxpayer burden?
► Transparency and Communication: (150 words max)
a) On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being “needs improve-

ment” and 10 being “exceeds expectations,” how would you rate the Board of Education in terms of transparency and effectiveness in communicating with the public regarding facts considered, deliberations, and conclusions related to key decisions of the BOE?

b) Do you think the general public would rate the Board more or less favorably than you do? If different, why?
c) Please describe any solutions you might have to either improve transparency and communication or to bridge any gaps in perception.

Brendan Hayes
Democratic

Biography

My wife Ainsley and I are 11-year New Canaan residents with three boys in NCPS – a sophomore at NCHS, a 7th grader at Saxe and a 3rd grader at West. I am a senior managing director at an investment bank in New York, which has given me deep financial expertise. In addition, my skills of collaboration, vocal advocacy and energetic support for our schools has led to my current role as Chairman of the Board of Education. I have been a member of the Board since 2015.



Brendan Hayes

Priorities

Our recent and upcoming Board of Education priorities include student health and wellness, implementation of our learning management system, and next generation science standards, among others. Student health and wellness is a complex, multi-faceted issue and important for all ages. It includes school start and end times, health / social / emotional education, school day scheduling, testing, homework, athletics, arts, and before / after school care. Our learning management system is being implemented to improve student / teacher / parent organization and communication and the next generation science initiative will help students learn how to solve 21st century problems, not just explore 20th century findings. Some of these initiatives will lead to additional costs that are minimal in the context of our overall budget and drive significantly better outcomes for our students. We will continue to seek offsets to these additional costs.

Transparency and Communication

I would rate the Board a 9 out of 10 on its communication with the public. Our website, which was recently revamped, provides significant information about every meeting, including archived footage, presentations and a 100+ page budget book (and shorter presentation) for each of the last few years. In addition, communication with our students and parents is evident in the frequent emails from administrators outlining key dates, information and all the great work that is done in NCPS.

Julie Mackle Reeves
Republican

Biography

I am a parent with children in the school system; a professional educator with a finance background; a committed volunteer in schools and other organizations; and a longtime New Canaanite. A current Board of Education member, I’m dedicated to our schools’ continued excellence. I believe in listening, researching, analyzing, and acting, while working collegially and in a fiscally prudent manner.



Julie Mackle Reeves

Priorities

In the near-term, changing school start times is a key issue still under discussion. As with any decision, our goal is to maintain the tightest budget we can while providing the optimal learning environment for our students and supporting the students’ health and well-being. One potential issue that could negatively impact local taxpayer burden is forced school regionalization, which I do not support. Should Hartford ultimately move forward on this, property values will likely decrease and expenses such as bussing, staffing and operations will likely increase, all of which would be passed on to taxpayers while diminishing our children’s education.

Transparency and Communication

Candidate Ranking: I would rate the Board a 9 in effective communication and transparency. The BOE provides public notice, per by-laws, of all meetings/workshops/committees, and the public is always invited. Minutes are posted to the BOE website in a timely manner, and summary notes are sent directly to each school for distribution via the parent organizations. Candidate View of Public Ranking: I believe the general public would rate us at or about the same level as I. If some have a less favorable perception, they may be unaware of how to access the information. It is also important to note that the public has a right to speak at public meetings, and they are welcome to email us with comments or questions. We value feedback. Solutions: One idea to bridge any gaps in perception and improve communication might be to establish and actively update district social media accounts, including links to BOE minutes and relevant material.

Steven Eno
Democratic

Biography

Nine years ago, our family made a great decision to move to New Canaan. We have been thrilled by the warmth of this town and the quality of education for our children. I intend to leverage my extensive finance, operations and marketing experience to drive changes in how the Board sets direction for our schools and interacts with the community.



Steven Eno

Priorities

The Board of Education’s role is to set the strategic direction for our schools. Too often it seems the Board defers to the administration instead of the other way around. The BOE needs to take back its leadership role and support better governance, a more transparent budget process and a higher level of community involvement. If the Board evolves in this direction, we shouldn’t need more funding. In creating more transparency the community will have more trust that the right spending decisions are being made.

Transparency and Communications

Candidate Ranking: 3
Candidate View of Public Ranking: The same.
Solutions:
► Involve stakeholders in major decisions through working groups/committees with parent, teacher and administration representation.
► BOE representation on administration committees that work on significant initiatives such as start times, curriculum, emotional health and lockdown procedures.
► Publish detailed meeting minutes, documents presented and a video record for each year’s Budget Workshop.
► Residents able to request BOE meeting agenda topics meetings (as done now for Town Council meetings)
► Publicly acknowledge, publish and respond to petitions
► There are public comment periods during each meeting, but many residents can’t attend. There needs to be to submit written public comments. All submitted comments distributed to members and published online before each meeting.
► Publish meeting agendas and materials at least 4 business days prior to meetings to give residents sufficient review time. Send email notifications of upcoming meetings and agendas.

Bob Naughton
Republican

Biography

I have lived in New Canaan since 2002 (17+ years) with my wife Maria and our four kids. I have been the Educational Records Bureau’s (ERB) Chief Technology Officer and Vice President of Operations since 2009. I am a member of the Republican Town Committee, Former New Canaan baseball board member, and St. Aloysius parish council and Emmaus Leadership.



Bob Naughton

Transparency and Communication

Candidates Ranking: I would give the board a 3 on transparency. Very few substantive votes are taken which means board discussion is suppressed. The board does not review and discuss line items detail during the budgeting process. We have a budget workshop where items are discussed but dollars are not, 1st budget read, a 2nd budget read and vote. In comparison, Darien has at least 10 budget meetings with a line by line discussion and a public session where the public can come and weigh in.

Candidates View of Public Ranking: Many of the people I have been talking to in this election season would rate the board similarly to me. The people that I have talked to comment that the board should be more involved and in particular with the budget process. Solutions: I will strive to foster change on how the board operates with regard to transparency and to encourage a more active role in the budgeting process.

Carl Gardiner
Republican

Biography

During our 16 years in New Canaan, my wife Polly and I have been raising three sons who collectively have enjoyed 25 years in the NCPS system. I have worked in finance and investments for nearly 30 years. With humility, I believe in local decision making, which gives a clear voice to those most closely impacted by the decisions.



Carl Gardiner

Priorities

I hope to apply my finance skills to identifying and implementing cost savings, so that we can maintain the excellence of New Canaan’s schools in a constrained budget environment. The BoE has overseen important innovations in healthcare, energy and insourcing. There is more to analyze and implement, including with respect to wasteful state mandates and administrative burdens. I see this as our primary challenge. The rapid rise in U.S. students seeking psychological counseling indicates the importance of student physical and emotional well-being. I see this as our second challenge and optimizing school start times is critical in this area.

Transparency and Communication

Candidate Ranking/Public Ranking/Solutions: That the LWV and Advertiser have allowed us the most space on the specific topic of transparency/communication likely indicates public concern in this area, and some townspeople have indeed approached me with such concerns. I am an analyst; so, without first-hand information, it would be premature, even irresponsible, for me to rate BoE performance with respect to its oversight duties and community liaison role, let alone attempt to compare mine versus the public’s. In my field of investments, I earned and maintain a credential relating specifically to governance and fiduciary matters. In any field, good governance and fiduciary practice result very simply from developing and applying sound procedures. I have studied the BoE’s by-laws and other policy statements. They are well-constructed. I will be a stickler for adhering to them, and I will make every effort to make the public understand how we are doing so.

Town Clerk *Vote for one*
Claudia A. Weber
Republican

Certified Municipal Clerk - Re-elected as Town Clerk (eleven terms); former State Instructor of Election Moderators; former Republican Registrar of Voters; Former Assistant Clerk, Probate Court, District of New Canaan; former Confidential Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Reagan/Bush Administration; former Staff Member to a U.S. Senator; former Staff Member – Americans for an Effective Presidency. Certified Elections Moderator; Justice of the Peace; Notary Public; Animal Advocate – Founder – Strays & Others, Inc.; Graduate – George Washington University.



Claudia Weber

Town Treasurer *Vote for one*
Andrew Brooks
Republican

I have proudly served New Canaan (my home of 25 years) as Treasurer since 2013. I utilize collaborative problem-solving skills and professional experiences in treasury, banking, and capital markets at Fortune Global 500 financial institutions to enhance New Canaan’s financial operations. During my tenure, I have refinanced our bonds at historically low interest rates and actively managed the Town’s general fund to maximize investment income while mitigating risk. These actions have saved millions of taxpayer dollars. I ask for your support for re-election so I can continue optimizing cash management and implementing additional cost saving initiatives in the next term.



Andrew Brooks

Board of Assessment Appeals*Vote for up to two*

» What are the personal characteristics needed to serve on the Board of Assessment Appeals? (50 words max)

» What specific factors do you think are most important when evaluating Assessment Appeals? (100 words max).

Jennifer Donovan

Republican

Personal Characteristics Needed to Serve on Board of Assessment Appeals

I will offer careful consideration to each New Canaan taxpayer, understanding the importance and value of private property, while being cognizant of the rules and regulations of the town of New Canaan.

Most Important Factors when assessing appeals?

The rights of the taxpayers who own private property in New Canaan is very important to me, Also one of the things that makes New Canaan special and unique is our respect for each other, and our town's zoning regulations. I will honor all these ideals and be fair in all decisions.



Jennifer Donovan

David L. Hunt

Republican

No response or photo submitted

Barbara Shaw

Democratic

Personal Characteristics Needed to Serve on Board of Assessment Appeals:

It's about listening, impartiality, awareness of community, and recognizing that behind every appeal is an individual or family deserving full consideration.

Most Important Factors when assessing appeals?

An appreciation for the town of New Canaan and its unique position within Connecticut must guide decision-making. Committee members must have an understanding of New Canaan real estate, market trends, town objectives, and the neighborhoods that define the New Canaan community. As a New Canaan real estate agent since 2009 and parent I understand the value of what we offer.



Barbara Shaw

Constables*Vote for up to four*

Arvind Bajaj

Republican

Arvind Bajaj has lived in New Canaan for 12 years: RTC, St. Aloysius, Coaching Youth Sports, YMCA et al. Arvind & Sheila Bajaj have been married 19 years, and they have a 17 year old daughter (NCHS) & 8th grade son (NCCS). His reason for serving as Constable is to find ways to contribute to this wonderful community.



Arvind Bajaj

Darren Bruno

Republican

No Response or Photo submitted.

Susan B. Edmands

Democratic

Managing Director of BST America. Former trustee and Vice President of the Chemists' Club and Societe de Chemie Industrielle; trustee Newtowne School, Cambridge, MA, Belmont Day School, and Packer Collegiate Institute. Member of the New Canaan DTC and co-chair of Nominating Committee. Secretary of Canaan Square Property Owners Association. Volunteer for Staying Put and New Canaan Library.



Susan B. Edmands

Cindy Franco

Democratic

The personal characteristics I see as needed in a constable are, most importantly, integrity and honesty. It is humbling to be part of the electoral process in New Canaan, where I have lived for over 30 years. If re-elected, I will approach the job's responsibilities again with a professional bipartisan view.



Cindy Franco

Mary Anne Mercogliano

Republican

I am a 15 year resident. I have two children. Alyssa is a sophomore at NC high school. Anthony is a seventh grader at Saxe. I am secretary for the RTC and I am a justice of the peace. I teach third grade, and also teach part time at the Congregational Church. I'm a parishioner and catechist at St. Aloysius.



Mary Anne Mercogliano

Gregory Pepe

Republican

After four successful terms as Constable I am honored again to be seeking reelection this November. To excel as a Constable you need to be available on short notice and provide speed of service due to the importance in meeting court imposed deadlines. I'm pleased that I still maintain a 100% delivery success rate over my four terms as Constable.



Gregory Pepe

Edward C. Vollmer


Democratic

Candidate for re-election to Constable. I am a 35 year resident in New Canaan a former U.S. Navy veteran, a New York State Policeman, a retired business owner and presently a local Historian. I believe that New Canaan is a great town and a great place to live.



Edward C. Vollmer

SAMPLE BALLOT

State of Connecticut Official Ballot		New Canaan, Connecticut				Municipal Election				November 5, 2019				District 1							
														Sheet 1 of 1							
OFFICE → PARTY ↓	1 FIRST SELECTMAN VOTE FOR ONE	2 SELECTMAN VOTE FOR ONE	3 TOWN CLERK VOTE FOR ONE	4 TOWN TREASURER VOTE FOR ONE	5 BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS VOTE FOR ANY TWO	6	7	8 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR ANY FOUR	9	10	11	12	13 TOWN COUNCIL VOTE FOR ANY SIX	14	15	16	17	18 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR ANY FOUR	19	20	
	1A CRAIG DONOVAN	2A KIT DEVEREAUX	3A	4A	5A BARBARA SHAW	6A	7A BRENDAN HAYES	8A STEVEN ENO	9A	10A	11A ROBIN BATES- MASON	12A COLM DOBBYN	13A MARK GRZYMSKI	14A	15A	16A	17A EDWARD C. VOLLMER	18A SUSAN B. EDMANDS	19A CINDY FRANCO	20A	
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1B KEVIN J. MOYNIHAN	<input type="radio"/> 2B NICK WILLIAMS	<input type="radio"/> 3B CLAUDIA A. WEBER	<input type="radio"/> 4B ANDREW BROOKS	<input type="radio"/> 5B JENNIFER DONOVAN	<input type="radio"/> 6B DAVID L. HUNT	<input type="radio"/> 7B JULIE MACKLE REEVES	<input type="radio"/> 8B BOB NAUGHTON	<input type="radio"/> 9B CARL W. GARDINER	<input type="radio"/> 10B	<input type="radio"/> 11B MARIA NAUGHTON	<input type="radio"/> 12B STEPHEN J. KARL	<input type="radio"/> 13B CRISTINA AGUIRRE- ROSS	<input type="radio"/> 14B MICHAEL J. MAURO	<input type="radio"/> 15B	<input type="radio"/> 16B	<input type="radio"/> 17B GREGORY PEPE	<input type="radio"/> 18B DARREN BRUNO	<input type="radio"/> 19B MARY ANNE MERCUGLIANO	<input type="radio"/> 20B ARVIND BAJAJ	
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input type="radio"/> 1C	<input type="radio"/> 2C	<input type="radio"/> 3C	<input type="radio"/> 4C	<input type="radio"/> 5C	<input type="radio"/> 6C	<input type="radio"/> 7C	<input type="radio"/> 8C	<input type="radio"/> 9C	<input type="radio"/> 10C	<input type="radio"/> 11C	<input type="radio"/> 12C	<input type="radio"/> 13C	<input type="radio"/> 14C	<input type="radio"/> 15C	<input type="radio"/> 16C	<input type="radio"/> 17C	<input type="radio"/> 18C	<input type="radio"/> 19C	<input type="radio"/> 20C	